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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/679,130	10/03/2003	Andrew T. Sultenfuss	016295.1436 (DC-05224)	2208
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Baker Botts L.L.P. 910 Louisiana Street, One Shell Plaza HOUSTON, TX 77002				
EXAMINER				
MOORE JR, MICHAEL J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2467				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/06/2011		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/679,130

Applicant(s)

SULTENFUSS ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL J. MOORE, JR.

Art Unit

2467

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2010 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Replacement drawings were received on 10/22/10. These drawings are acceptable and have been entered.

Specification

Amendments made by Applicant to the specification are proper and have been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims **10, 12, and 14** are objected to because of the following informalities: Each of these claims needs a "period" inserted at the end of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Amendment

3. The Declaration filed on 10/22/10 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the *Lovberg et al. (U.S. 2003/0224801)* reference. Accordingly, the previous prior art rejections utilizing *Lovberg et al.* have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection are provided below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim **14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim **14** recites the limitation "the pluralities of transmission devices" in line 2.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims **1-15, 19, and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinson (U.S. 6,920,185) in view of Willer (U.S. 6,393,109).

Regarding claims **1, 9, and 19**, *Hinson* teaches a packet switching router 203 (information handling system) of Figures 3 and 4 that includes a data processing engine 405 (processor), a memory 408, a switch interface 409 (transceiver), a switch 303 (communication switch) coupled to CIMS 305 via transmission lines and switch interfaces 409 (transceivers), as well as NIMs 301 (communication ports) coupled to

switch 303 (communication switch) that provide a connection between the packet switched router 203 (information handling system) and different external communication networks via links 104, 214 as spoken of on column 11, lines 45-57.

Hinson also teaches CIMs 305 (port replicator connector) of Figures 3 and 4 that are coupled to the switch 303 via transmission lines and provide a connection between the packet switched router 203 (information handling system) and downstream network connections (external network connection) as spoken of on column 12, lines 9-25.

Hinson does not teach "a plurality of inductive devices operably coupled to a plurality of transmission lines, the inductive devices selected and coupled to the transmission lines such that one or more electrical characteristics of selected transmission lines may be tuned to substantially approximate one or more electrical characteristics required by the external network".

However, *Willer* teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claims **2 and 10**, *Willer* teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claims **3, 11, and 12**, *Willer* teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

Willer further teaches inductive devices used on bidirectional transmission lines between terminals 30 and end equipment 14 as shown in Figure 3.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claims **4 and 5**, *Willer* teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claim **6**, *Hinson* also teaches CIMs 305 (port replicators) of Figures 3 and 4 that are coupled to the switch 303 via transmission lines and provide a connection between the packet switched router 203 (information handling system) and downstream network connections (external network connection) as spoken of on column 12, lines 9-25.

Hinson further teaches where the CIMs 305 (port replicators) include a bridge 415 (information handling system connector), a switch interface 409 (communication port) and internal transmission lines connecting these components as shown in Figure 4.

Hinson does not teach "a plurality of inductive devices coupled to the transmission lines of the port replicator".

However, *Willer* teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claim 7, *Hinson* further teaches CIMs 305 (port replicator) of Figures 3 and 4 that are coupled to the switch 303 via transmission lines and provide a connection between the packet switched router 203 (information handling system) and downstream network connections (add-on devices) as spoken of on column 12, lines 9-25.

Regarding claims 8 and 20, *Hinson* further teaches where the PSR 203 of Figure 3 is compatible with the 802.3 Ethernet standard as spoken of on column 11, lines 54-65 as well as column 13, lines 10-14.

Willer further teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claims **13 and 14**, *Hinson* further teaches CIMs 305 (port replicator) of Figures 3 and 4 that are coupled to the switch 303 via transmission lines and provide a connection between the packet switched router 203 (information handling system) and downstream network connections (add-on devices) as spoken of on column 12, lines 9-25.

Willer further teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Regarding claim **15**, *Hinson* further teaches that packet switching router 203 of Figure 3 supports Gigabit Ethernet communications as spoken of on column 11, lines 54-65.

Willer further teaches a communication system in Figure 3 where a plurality of inductive devices are coupled to telephony wire lines and where inductors are selected to insure that the impedance encountered by the two wire bus lines 20c and 20d match the input impedance of the analog terminal ends 19 in order to minimize capacitance and reflections as spoken of on column 5, lines 50-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art, given these references, to include inductive devices as taught in *Willer* to tune the electrical characteristics of the transmission line system of *Hinson* in order to prevent adverse electrical effects that damage communication via transmission lines of a network as spoken of on column 2, lines 16-34 of *Willer*.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL J. MOORE, JR., whose telephone number is (571)272-3168. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pankaj Kumar can be reached at (571) 272-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J. Moore, Jr./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2467

